

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks/arguments and amendments.

Claim Status

Claims 46, 49-56 are currently pending in the application. Claims 46, 49-52 were previously allowed while claims 53-56 were rejected by the Examiner in the Office Action. Claim 53 was the only claim amended in Applicants' previous response. No new claims have been added by this response.

Objection Raised in the Official Communication

Claims 46 and 54 were objected to due to their designation in Applicants' previous response of November 5, 2003 as "Presently Amended". Applicants have re-designated claims 46 & 54 as having been "Previously Presented". Accordingly, Applicants believe that the present re-designation of claims 46 & 54 suffices to overcome the non-compliant objection. The corrected section of the non-compliant amendment (i.e. the "LISTING OF CLAIMS" section) has been submitted in this response.

CONCLUSION

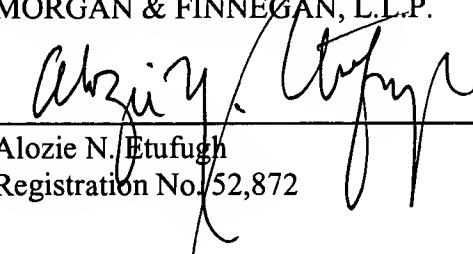
In light of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and earnestly request such allowance. If the examiner has any questions concerning this response, she is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the timely consideration of this amendment under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 0140-4126US1.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: December 24, 2003

By:


Alozie N. Etufugh
Registration No. 52,872

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154-0053
(212) 758-4800 Telephone
(212) 751-6849 Facsimile